

**Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources**  
**June 14, 2010**  
**Meeting Summary**

Convened 9:00 a.m., Room 214, Cross Office Building, Augusta

**Present:**

Sen. Seth Goodall, Senate Chair  
Sen. Doug Smith  
Sen. Deborah Simpson  
Rep. Bob Duchesne, House Chair  
Rep. Jane Eberle  
Rep. John Martin  
Rep. Brian Bolduc  
Rep. Melissa Walsh Innes  
Rep. Jim Hamper  
Rep. Jane Knapp

**Absent:**

Rep. Bernard Ayotte  
Rep. Peter Edgecomb  
Rep. Joan Welsh

Committee Chair Senator Seth Goodall convened the third 2010 interim meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources and asked the members to introduce themselves. Senator Goodall then directed the Committee through the agenda.

**Hot Mix Asphalt Plant Emissions**

Bryce Sproul, Director of Licensing and Enforcement for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, briefed the Committee on hot mix asphalt plant air emission regulation in Maine. The Committee reviewed this issue at the request of the Augusta delegation to the Maine Legislature and pursuant to the approval for request for interim committee meetings from the Legislative Council. At the conclusion of the briefing, and after hearing from residents of the Grandview neighborhood, officials of the City of Augusta, Representative Patsy Crocket and industry members, committee members noted that the dispute appears to be a local issue and should not be addressed through a state law at this time. Representative Crocket noted that she has called a meeting of the interested parties for later in June. A copy of Mr. Sproul's presentation was submitted.

**Recycling - Options and Alternative Approaches**

Sue Inches, Director of Policy for the State Planning Office presented an overview of recycling options for Maine. Ms. Inches provided information on current recycling data, existing incentives, barriers to recycling, recycling demographics and markets for recycled materials. SPO's recommendations for consideration by the Committee include:

- Cardboard - Recycle all commercial and residential cardboard via disposal ban or recycling mandate.
- Leaf and yard waste - Compost all leaf and yard waste via disposal ban or recycling mandate.

- Glass, plastic, paper and metal - Increase recycling by 10% through incentives: curb, pay per bag, local ordinance or mandate.
- Food waste - Initiate a pilot project to compost food waste in one major service center.
- Commercial recycling - Increase outreach to businesses, increase commercial recycling by 10%.
- Household hazardous waste - Build 14 new hazardous waste collection sites.

The estimated additional recycled tons and approximate costs associated with various options include:

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Added Recycled Tons</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Cardboard	+114,000	\$1m matching grants
Leaf and yard waste	+174,527	\$1m matching grants
Local incentives	+78,964	\$4m matching grants
Commercial recycling	+108,410	\$200,000 to fund additional staff or grants
Household hazardous waste	xxx	\$2.8m matching grants
Food waste	xxx	\$2.8m for pilot project

A summary of the options presented include: recycling can be re-energized with a revitalized public education campaign; targeted state matching grants for infrastructure with municipalities providing match would result in additional recycling; additional HHW collection sites would result in capturing and proper disposal of significantly more toxic waste; additional attention to commercial recycling can raise tons recycled by business; a combination of new incentives and disposal bans can take us to 50% recycling or beyond; and various funding options exist, including disposal fees, bonds, etc.

A copy of Ms. Inches' PowerPoint presentation was submitted.

### **Committee Discussion**

In addition to receipt of information from DEP and SPO on the application process for expansion and the draft denial of the public benefit determination at Juniper Ridge and the timeframes for an application and approval of a new landfill, the Committee's discussion focused on the following issues.

Capacity: The Committee's discussion on disposal capacity included the following:

- Committee members noted that the SPO and DEP differ on the amount of disposal capacity currently available.
- There is not agreement among Committee members as to whether Carpenter Ridge is a viable option to increase disposal capacity.
- The Committee needs to make a decision as to whether there is sufficient capacity in the State, taking into account the amount of time needed to add additional capacity.
- If additional capacity is needed, should the Committee recommend allowing expansion at the State-owned landfill or at a private landfill? Consideration of this issue includes a

decision on whether the State should continue the current policy of requiring any new landfill to be publicly-owned.

Recycling: The Committee's discussion on recycling included the following:

- Committee members noted that increasing recycling, as well as reducing and reusing, will require less disposal capacity but will not solve the whole problem.
- Committee members noted concern that recycling costs would be loaded on small businesses.
- There is general agreement that more education, marketing and incentives are needed to improve recycling rates.
- Since the State's pricing policy does not support the solid waste management hierarchy, one option is to assess a fee on all landfilled waste and use the fee to support capacity for recycling or composting or WTE facilities.

Conclusions:

- The Committee is not ready to make decisions until it has better data on capacity. The Committee requested DEP and SPO to present their capacity projections, including the basis for those projections, at the next meeting.
- Agreement that "reduce, reuse and recycle" should be encouraged.

### **Scheduling**

The Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources scheduled its next meeting for June 22, 2010 starting at 9:00 a.m. Topics for the agenda are: (1) reduce, reuse, recycle - recommendations; (2) data on capacity needs; and (3) potential expansion at Crossroads Landfill.